

TRANSREPORT

TRANSPORTATION NEWS FROM THE BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MBTA Introduces CharlieTickets at Airport Station

The MBTA held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the introduction of the CharlieCard and CharlieTicket, a historic milestone for the nation's oldest subway system.



Ribbon cutting at Airport Station

The CharlieTicket will replace the token as the new equipment is installed systemwide. CharlieTickets can be purchased for as little as \$1.25 for a one-way trip, or as much as the cost of a monthly pass. Customers with Senior and TAP IDs will need to obtain new IDs in order to use the new equipment. Current monthly pass holders may use their current passes in the new fareboxes.

The new fareboxes have a sleek design that provides quick access to the station, as well as accommodations for riders with disabilities. Fare vending machines dispense CharlieTickets, which can be purchased with cash, credit or debit cards, or MBTA tokens. In addition to the new equipment, MBTA customer service agents will be available to assist riders in using the new fare system.

The installation of the new fare equipment at Airport Station is only the

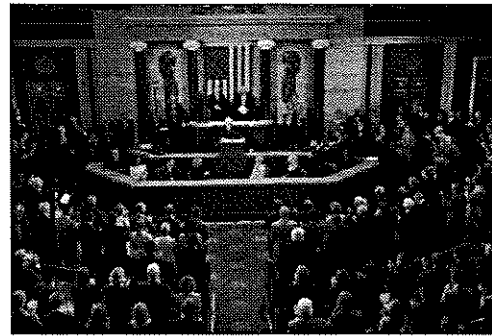
■ MBTA.com on p. 6

Senate Approves TEA-21 Reauthorization Bill, Sends It to Committee for Final Approval

The U.S. Senate voted to approve its version of the reauthorization bill for the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) by a vote of 89 to 11. TEA-21, the federal multimodal transportation bill, provides federal funding for transportation improvements to both highways and transit programs, as well as air quality improvements and non-motorized modes,

such as bicycle and pedestrian. Prior to the reauthorization approval, the Senate rejected an amendment by Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama) by a vote of 84 to 16.

The version approved by the U.S. House of Representatives provides \$284 billion for TEA-21 reauthorization. The two bills now move to a House-Senate conference committee, where differences in policy and funding must be reconciled, including more than \$11 billion in additional spending contained in the \$295 billion Senate bill. Conferees have yet to be named, but the conference committee will be chaired by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska). Agreement may prove challenging, as the White House has threatened to veto any bill greater than \$284 billion. The administration has also indicated its strong opposition to provisions in the House bill that allow Congress to reconsider funding levels before the six-year reauthorization expires.



In addition to the veto threats, other important differences in the two competing bills must be resolved. The Senate bill provides more funding for the core federal transportation programs, while the House bill relies far more heavily on earmarked projects. Differences in policy provisions related to air quality planning, storm water mitigation, section 4(f) protec-

tions, consultation of natural resource plans, and planning funding for metropolitan planning organizations must also be reconciled.

Congress recently passed a seventh extension of TEA-21 to allow the conference committee time to negotiate a compromise between the bills by July 4.

Stay tuned to TRANSREPORT for additional information.

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BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of its Transportation Planning and Programming Committee on May 19, the Boston Region MPO approved the Air Quality Conformity Redetermination for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan

and the fiscal years 2005–2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The redetermination demonstrates compliance with the federal Environmental Protection Agency's new eight-hour ozone standard, which replaces the former one-hour standard.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

In addition to developing its recommendation on MPO endorsement of the conformity redetermination described above, the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee approved the distribution of a proposed major amendment and subsequent adjustments to the FY 2005 element of the FYs 2005–2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public comment. The proposed amendment and adjustments may be downloaded from the MPO's Web site, www.bostonmpo.org. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Central Transportation Planning Staff at 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116-3968, U.S. mail; (617) 973-7100, telephone; (617) 973-7089, TTY; (617) 973-8855, fax; or public information@ctps.org, e-mail. Accessible formats are available upon request. Written comments may be submitted via fax, e-mail, or U.S. mail. The public comment period will close June 13, 2005. A meeting to review comments received and to take action on this amendment is scheduled for June 16 (see page 6 for details).

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

In May Advisory Council members and guests received a staff briefing on a proposed major amendment to the FYs 2005–2009 TIP. Advisory Council members voted to recommend its approval to the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Members and guests were also briefed on subregional outreach activities for the preparation of the draft FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program and public outreach efforts conducted to date for the MPO's Regional Equity Program. In addition, the Town of Marlborough was elected as a member of the Advisory Council.

The June Advisory Council meeting will feature a presentation on the proposed revisions to the State Implementation Plan (see related article on page 4). Also slated for June is an Advisory Council tour of the City of Boston's new Traffic Management Center. Space is limited; contact Advisory Council coordinator Bill Moore at (617) 973-7144 or bill.moore@ctps.org to reserve space.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

At the May AACT meeting, members voted to elect new executive board members. James Oliver was reelected as chairperson; April Maselli was reelected as vice chairperson; and Paul Barresi, Kathryn Piccard, Michael Sears, and Frank Traverna were elected to the board. New and reelected members will begin their terms on July 1, 2005.

Staff from the MBTA's Office for Transportation Access (OTA) announced the creation of a new position, Director of Vertical Transportation, to provide oversight of elevator and escalator operations throughout the MBTA system. MBTA staff also reminded members of the opportunity to comment on the MBTA's 2006 Service Plan. Written comments may be sent to MBTA Service Planning, 45 High Street, Boston, MA 02111 or e-mailed to service@mbta.com. The comment period ends June 30, 2005.

MassRIDES Receives National Award

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) recently awarded the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) with the 2005 HOV Excellence in Support Services Award for their statewide travel options program, MassRIDES. TRB is a division of the National Research Council, which serves as an independent adviser to the federal government and others on scientific and

MassRIDES

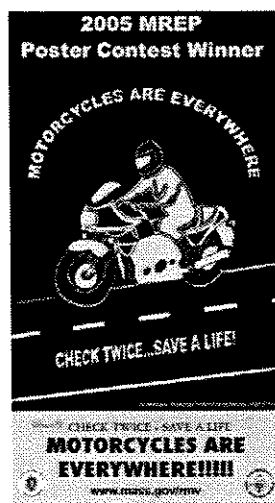
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technical questions of national importance. The mission of the TRB, one of six major divisions of the National Research Council, is to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research.

The TRB award was presented to the EOT for MassRIDES' innovative travel services, support, and information program. MassRIDES' statewide 24-hour, bilingual customer service line—which offers personal travel assistance, directions, and information—was recognized as an innovative and comprehensive approach to making carpooling and transit easy and convenient for the public. TRB also recognized the MassRIDES marketing and promotional campaign for its direct, creative themes, which have been highly effective in capturing the attention of commuters. TRB commended the EOT for a “notable array of services to be emulated by other transportation agencies and providers across the nation.”

For more information on EOT's statewide commuter options program, please visit www.commute.com or call 1-888-4COMMUTE.

Registry Announces Motorcycle Awareness Poster Winners



On April 28 the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Kimberly Hinden, announced that student Al Mantyla, a 10th grader at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, was the winner of the first annual "Motorcycles Are

Everywhere" Poster Campaign. Mr. Mantyla was presented with a brand-new Gateway 3200s computer, and a gift certificate for his high school in the amount of \$500 at New England Office Supplies for winning first place in the statewide contest.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles will also be giving awards to two other Massachusetts high school students. North Shore Technical High School's Keyan Anderson was chosen as the second-place winner in the contest. The 11th grader will receive a \$250 Visa gift card, and a gift certificate for North Shore Technical High School in the amount of \$250 at New England Office Supplies. The third-place winner was Concord Carlisle Regional High School's Lauren Zwicker. The 11th grader's prize is a \$100 Visa gift card, and a gift certificate for her high school in the amount of \$100 at New England Office Supplies.

Last year, Massachusetts had 58 motorcycle fatalities. Because they are future drivers, high school students were chosen to help with the motorcycle awareness campaign. The award-winning poster will be displayed throughout the state in Registry branches, motorcycle rider education schools, and motorcycle expositions.

Executive Office of Transportation and State Police Kick Off Antilitter Campaign

Standing in front of examples of trash found along Massachusetts roadways, including ladders, tires, computer screens, and bags of lighter refuse ejected from vehicles, Transportation Secretary John Cogliano and State Police Colonel Thomas G. Robbins kicked off a statewide antilitter campaign. Highlighting the increasing levels of roadside trash found throughout the commonwealth and the fines for littering, they discussed programs for keeping commonwealth roadways clean and reducing the

costs of littering. The announcement took place at MassHighway's Reading depot, one of several maintenance sites located throughout the state.

Litter removal is in the job descriptions of hundreds of Maintenance Department employees in each of MassHighway's five districts. Secretary Cogliano, however, said that it's challenging to keep up with litter removal, given such maintenance demands as cleaning catch basins, responding to roadway incidents and accidents, street sweeping, pothole patching, and mowing activities. In addition to the cost to the environment and to taxpayers, people caught littering risk personal costs. The courts have the author-

ity to impose steep fines on litterbugs of up to \$5,500 for the first offense, and Colonel Robbins noted that Governor Mitt Romney recently asked law enforcement officials to step up their enforcement efforts on this front.

In an effort to minimize costs, the state utilizes prison inmate labor to help keep our roads clean. Under this program, local correctional facilities supervise and direct

inmates to pick up litter along highways and at rest areas. Last year alone,

inmates in this program removed nearly 740 tons of roadside trash. Other programs that address the litter problem include the Adopt-a-Highway and Sponsor-a-Highway initiatives.

Motorists can lend a hand by serving as roving patrols, informing MassHighway of litter and debris locations along the roadway. These locations can be reported by calling (888) 359-9595 or #321 on a cellular phone. To sponsor or adopt a section of highway, contact Pat Karageanis at 617-973-7755; or e-mail adoptahighway@mhd.state.ma.us; or visit www.mhd.state.ma.us for more information.



MASS HIGHWAY

State Highway Funds for Municipalities Released

In a continued effort to enable cities and towns to address local infrastructure needs, the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) has released a \$120 million apportionment for the fiscal year 2006 Chapter 90 program.

To make the Chapter 90 program more accessible to the 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth, FY 2006 contract packages and guidelines are available on the MassHighway Web site at www.state.ma.us/mhd. This Web site also provides the latest Chapter 90 program and procedural information, as well as an alphabet-

ical list of apportionments for each city and town.

Enacted on March 23, 1973, the Chapter 90 program entitles municipalities to reimbursement of documented expenditures for approved highway construction, preservation, and improvement projects. For further information or to ask questions, contact Catherine Paquette, State Aid Manager, at (617) 973-7564, or contact your local MassHighway district manager.

State Proposes Changes to SIP Transit Mitigation Plans

State officials have announced a \$770 million program of state-funded transit projects that will provide Boston area residents and commuters with easier travel into the city. This latest program expands some projects, while dropping others, from the original memorandum of understanding that formalized the transit mitigation agreement for the Central Artery/Tunnel Project in 1990 and incorporated it into the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the SIP sets forth a plan and schedule for complying with the Clean Air Act.

The new program would extend Green Line service past Lechmere Station to the Tufts University neighborhood and the West Medford area, with a separate branch to Union Square in Somerville. It also calls for the addition of four new stations on the Fairmount Line in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park; doubles service on the Worcester/Framingham Line; and adds 1,000 new parking spaces at existing Boston area commuter rail and transit lots.

Two projects from the original 1990 list that are not included in the current plan are the restoration of trolley service on the Arborway in Jamaica Plain and a connection between the Red Line and Blue Line subways. The substitution plan costs less than the state would have to pay to fulfill the original agreement, serves almost twice the number of commuters, and has double the air quality benefits.

The largest project by far is the Green Line extension, which is projected to be completed between 2011 and 2014. At an estimated cost of \$559 million, it would be one of the largest rapid transit expansions since the Red Line extension in the mid-1980s. It would also achieve more air quality benefits than the levels set forth in the current SIP.

The \$100 million programmed for four new stations along the Fairmount Line is in addition to funding for the rehabilitation of Uphams Corner and Mattapan.

A Smart Growth Update

Communities Honored for Smart Growth

Nine Massachusetts cities and towns were honored by Governor Romney as leaders in smart growth innovation.

During a ceremony along the Charles River in Boston, Romney presented the communities of Salem, Easthampton, Lawrence, Marlboro, Newburyport, Newbury, and Brockton with Smart Growth Innovation Awards. He also honored Cambridge and Montague with honorable mention awards.

In addition to recognition by the Governor, the winning cities and towns will receive the following benefits:

- Assistance from the Office of Commonwealth Development (OCD) in determining eligibility for project funding through the state Commonwealth Capital programs which exclusively target smart growth projects
- Technical assistance in preparing applications for Commonwealth Capital funding
- Priority eligibility for the range of Commonwealth Capital infrastruc-



ture, conservation, and housing grant programs

- Opportunities for expedited state permitting, where possible

Westwood Approves Overlay Zoning

On May 3 the Planning Board of the Town of Westwood approved mixed-use overlay districts in the 240-acre University Avenue area. About 40 percent of the properties in that area are currently vacant. To increase tax revenue to the town, the Westwood Economic Development Advisory Board

also recommended changes to the industrial park zoning that will allow mixed-use development and will provide for affordable housing in overlay districts.

According to the advisory board, the overlay districts will create a pedestrian-friendly environment, where a mix of retail, commercial spaces, and condominiums can coexist, at a site near the Islington commuter rail station, the Amtrak station, and Routes 1 and 128.

Street stations that is currently underway. For decades, commuter trains on the line have traveled through those neighborhoods, but a limited number of stops made neighborhood access difficult. MBTA officials project that ridership on the line will increase from 2,800 riders per day to 7,300 riders per day after the rebuilt and newly constructed stations have opened.

The new list of transit projects proposed for inclusion in the SIP will now go to regional planners and state environmental regulators for their review. As part of

that review, the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) held a consultation meeting with the Boston Region MPO in May to provide members with background information about how the projects were evaluated and to solicit their input on the process for public comment. The MPO is considering the project evaluations and has scheduled an additional consultation and public meeting (see page 6 for details). Comments may be submitted to EOT for consideration in the reevaluation process.

Cruiseport Boston Opens for 2005 Season

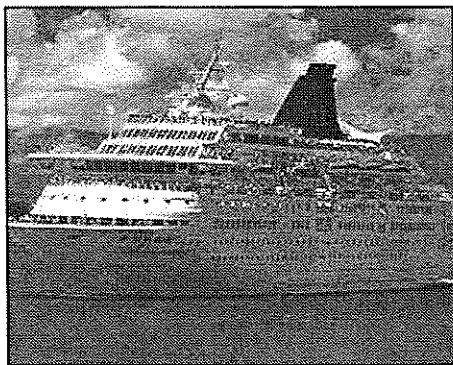
The start of the 2005 cruise season at the Massachusetts Port Authority's Black Falcon Cruise Terminal in South Boston began in May. This year the cruise season extends from May through November, with a total of 100 vessels. It features some first-time itineraries and attractions as well as some old favorites, with cruise ships expected to carry more than 225,000 passengers through Boston this year. Fifteen cruise lines will serve the terminal, providing a mix of New England/Canada cruises, Bermuda cruises, and Caribbean cruises.

Norwegian Cruise Line offers popular weekly Boston-to-Bermuda sailings aboard the *Norwegian Majesty* throughout the 26-week season. In addition, Norwegian Cruise Line's famed *Pride of America* will visit the Port of Boston on a special port inaugural tour on Sunday, June 19. The *Pride of America* will make her historical debut as the first U.S.-flagged cruise vessel to be commissioned in nearly 50 years. With this registry status, *Pride of America* is able to offer exclusive itineraries and is scheduled to be home-ported in the Hawaiian Islands.

Other cruise lines serving Boston Harbor include Royal Caribbean, which is expanding its service from Boston by offering turnaround cruises to the Caribbean on one of its newest ships, the *Jewel of the Seas*. *Jewel of the Seas* is scheduled to embark on six 10-day Caribbean/Bermuda cruises from Boston, earning the historic distinction of being the first vessel to offer regular sailings to the Caribbean from Boston. In addition, Royal Caribbean will offer summer and fall cruising along the North Atlantic coastline, stopping in New England and Canadian ports. Royal Caribbean's newly refurbished and enlarged *Enchantment of the Seas*, featuring 200 new cabins and many amenities, will make eight Boston

calls during the 2005 season.

Holland America Line, a luxury cruise line known for its comfortable amenities, made Boston a home port last year, when it doubled its service at Cruiseport Boston. This year, Holland America



The Norwegian Majesty

offers a 35-day, round-trip transatlantic cruise from Boston to Rotterdam, with stops along the scenic Arctic Circle, including ports in Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and the North Sea, before

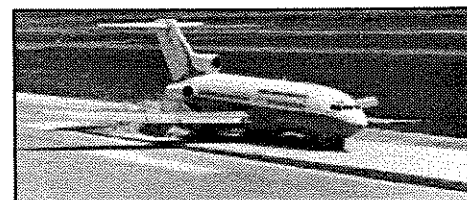
returning to Boston. In addition, Holland America's grand *Maasdam* will offer summer and fall cruising along the North Atlantic coastline, with 13 Boston calls.

Several other cruise lines are scheduled to make port-of-call visits this season, including Cunard Line's regal sisters, the *Queen Elizabeth 2* and the *Queen Mary 2*. These elegant vessels will sail into Boston for a one-day visit on September 12 and October 6. This season will also feature port-of-calls from Radisson Seven Seas Cruises, Princess Cruises, Silversea Cruises, Saga Holidays, Carnival Cruises (including the Holiday Kreuzfahrten), Crystal Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, P&O Cruises, Seabourn Cruises, and Resi-denSea Cruises.

In 2004 a total of 95 cruise ships and nearly 200,000 passengers called on the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal, which is located in South Boston's lively seaport district, only minutes away from downtown Boston's world-famous historic sites, shops, and restaurants. The terminal is also accessible via taxicab or MBTA Silver Line Waterfront service from Logan International Airport. Parking is available at the port, and shuttle service is available from many downtown Boston locations. For more information or to obtain schedules and bookings, visit www.massport.com/ports/cruis.html.

Logan Airport Installs Runway Safety Areas

In May, the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) began the installation of an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) at the end of runway 22R. EMAS, which is an engineered bed of ultralight, crushable concrete blocks, is designed to slow down an aircraft that has overrun the end of a runway. EMAS increases airport runway safety to protect people and aircraft in the event of an emergency. The system will be installed on the existing airport land mass and will not intrude into the surrounding harbor.



EMAS being installed and tested on runway

Weather permitting, installation of the EMAS is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete. The work is scheduled to take place from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M., Sunday through Friday, with daytime work a possibility, pending wind patterns and the availability of the runway. All project activities will take place on Logan's airfield, and construction vehicles will be required to use designated highway routes and will not be permitted to travel on neighborhood streets to access the site.

For general information on this project, please call Massport's Office of Government and Community Affairs at (617) 568-3711 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.).

MEETING CALENDAR

The public is welcome to attend the following transportation-related meetings. A photo ID is usually required for access to meeting sites.

**AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING,
10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON**

Tuesday, June 14
Boston Region MPO Meeting: 1:00 P.M.
State Implementation Plan (SIP)
Project Reevaluation
Transportation Library, 2nd Floor

MPO Public Meeting: State 6:00 P.M.
Implementation Plan (SIP)
Project Reevaluation
Conference Rooms 2 and 3

Wednesday, June 15
Regional Transportation 2:00 P.M.
Advisory Council
Transportation Library

Thursday, June 16
Boston Region MPO 10:00 A.M.
Transportation Planning and
Programming Committee Meeting
CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Boston Region MPO Meeting: 1:00 P.M.
Endorsement of an amendment
to the fiscal years 2005-2009
Transportation Improvement Program
CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Monday, June 20
MBTA Rider Oversight 4:30 P.M.
Committee
Conference Rooms 1, 2, and 3

Wednesday, June 22
Access Advisory Committee 5:30 P.M.
to the MBTA (AACT)
Conference Room 2

Thursday, June 23
Boston Region MPO 10:00 A.M.
Transportation Planning and
Programming Committee Meeting
Conference Room 2 and 3

Thursday, June 30
Boston Region MPO Final 10:00 A.M.
SIP Reevaluation Consultation
CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Thursday, July 7
Boston Region MPO 10:00 A.M.
Transportation Planning and
Programming Committee Work Session
CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Call (617) 222-5179 for date
MBTA Board of Directors 1:00 P.M.
Conference Rooms 2 and 3

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

Thursday, June 9
MBTA Blue Line Automated 6:00 P.M.
Fare Collection: Station and
Customer Service Enhancements
East Boston Harborside
Community Center
312 Border Street, East Boston

Friday, June 10
MOVE MASSACHUSETTS: 8:10 A.M.
A Conversation On Evaluating
Transportation Projects
Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels
Eighteenth Floor
One Financial Center, Boston
(Across from South Station)

Tuesday, June 14
Central Artery Environmental 3:00 P.M.
Oversight Committee Meeting:
CA/T Downtown Corridor
Pedestrian Environment
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr
60 State Street, Boston
For further information or to RSVP,
contact Dan Wilson at (617) 720-4343
or danwilson1@verizon.net.

Wednesday, June 29
MassHighway Public Hearing: 3:00 P.M.
Proposed I-95/93 (Route 128)
Transportation Improvement
Project from Route 24, Randolph to
Westwood (north of the East Street Rotary)
Canton Town Hall
Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor
801 Washington Street, Canton

Meeting dates and times are subject to change: please
call (617) 973-7119 for confirmation. Additional
transportation meetings open to the public are listed
on the Boston Region MPO Web site, www.bostonmpo.org.

■ MBTA cont. from p. 1

beginning of its rollout. Aquarium Station received the automated fare equipment at the end of May, and six more stations on the Blue Line will receive the equipment by the end of the summer. CharlieTickets are already accepted on the Washington Street branch of the Silver Line. The new equipment will be operating systemwide by the beginning of 2006.

TRANSPORT

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